

To: Community Representatives

From: Thomas Gallagher, Ph.D., Director
Office of Community Liaison
National Institutes of Health (NIH)

Date: April 2003

NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF COMMUNITY LIAISON

Project Updates

Stoney Creek: The Stoney Creek Storm Water Management project is moving along. The project was unanimously endorsed by the Montgomery County Planning Board in February, and the 60% design plans will be presented to the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) in May. The purpose of the project is to restore water quality and stream habitat in lower Rock Creek by reducing storm water flow rates while, at the same time, improving runoff water quality from downtown Bethesda. The pond will also fulfill storm water management requirements mandated by the state.



Thomas Gallagher, Ph.D.

The permanent water surface of the pond will generally cover a little less than one and a half acres, although a 100-year storm could briefly increase the size of the pond to as much as three acres. The pond will be about 6 feet deep at its deepest point, but as a safety precaution there will be a 12-foot-wide ledge at the shoreline where the water will only be 6 to 12 inches deep. Landscaping with native trees, shrubs, grasses and wetland vegetation will help support a diverse and balanced ecosystem and make for an attractive corner of the NIH campus.

The current schedule is to complete the 90% design stage by this May and have state reviews completed during the summer. Advertisement for construction will probably take place in December of this year, and construction is scheduled to begin in May of 2004. Construction will take approximately six to eight months, so the pond should be completed in late 2004 or early in 2005.

Building 33 Risk Assessment: It is important to know that the professional biological laboratories at the NIH strictly adhere to standard microbiological practices and techniques that have been established, codified and published in *Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories*. This book has been prepared by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the NIH. It is published by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. It is a fascinating read, and anyone interested in a copy should contact me.

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The Community Liaison Council will hold its next meeting on **Thursday, April 17, at 4 p.m.**, in the Natcher Conference Center, Building 45, Conference Room D on the NIH Campus.

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The principles of biosafety are fundamental to both lab design and lab work. In other words, standard microbiological practices and techniques are always supplemented by appropriate facility design and engineering features, safety equipment and management practices. So well are risks understood and laboratory practices monitored, that performing a “risk assessment” is most unusual. The above being said, in order to answer community questions and facilitate a healthy dialogue, the NIH has undertaken a risk assessment on Building 33.

Through a task order contract, the NIH has assembled a number of disciplines to help perform the assessment. The group includes an environmental scientist with 20 years experience in disease and injury control, a statistician, an operations research scientist and an engineer. An expert in biological risk assessment from the NIH will assist the team, as well as three Community Liaison Council (CLC) members. The risks to be considered will depend on the deliberations of the steering committee that is made up of both NIH officials and CLC members. The steering committee has already begun its work of collecting perceived risks to be evaluated.

An example of some of the questions (perceived risks) that have already been raised are: 1) consideration concerning material spills and/or building malfunctions such as a power outage; 2) the physical security of any biological agents housed within the building; 3) the possibilities of contamination outside the building; 4) the possibility of sabotage; and so on. Results of the risk assessment will be made public at the conclusion of the assessment.

Metro Escalator Canopy Project: Last fall the Metro board of directors approved a resolution to install canopies over exposed escalators throughout the Metro system in Washington, Maryland and Virginia. A design has been selected and approved by the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts and the NCPC. The Medical Center Metro station will be among the first canopies constructed with preparatory work scheduled to begin within the next month. The installation is slated to begin on May 14 and will be completed early in July.

NIH CAMPUS NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

President Bush Visits NIH; Tours Vaccine Research Center

In February, NIH received a very distinguished guest—President Bush. President Bush along with HHS Secretary Tommy Thompson and Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge accompanied NIH Director Elias Zerhouni, M.D., on a VIP tour of the Vaccine Research Center. Following the tour, the president took some time to speak to a packed crowd of scientists and government officials in the Natcher Auditorium on the main NIH campus. President Bush hailed the leadership efforts of Dr. Zerhouni saying his work had “far exceeded” his expectations. He also took the opportunity to thank NIH’s employees for working long hours to help secure the nation against the threat of bioterrorism. Outlining his plans for “Project BioShield,” a plan to protect Americans from weapons of bioterrorism, President Bush called upon NIH’s expertise to further drug research and vaccine production.



President Bush speaks to NIH officials and staff.

“Now our scientists have been called to meet a different kind of challenge: man’s efforts to use diseases as weapons of war and terror,” President Bush explained. “This threat has placed research scientists at the center of our mission to defend the American people. It has put NIH squarely in the midst of our war to defend America and to defeat international terrorism,” he added.



President Bush looks through a microscope while touring the NIH Vaccine Research Center.

President Bush said the \$6 million plan would make safer and more effective vaccines and treatments against agents such as smallpox, anthrax, botulinum toxin, Ebola and plague by committing the federal government to purchase the medicines that combat bioterror. He concluded, "I look forward to working with the United States Congress to get Project BioShield out of its committees, onto the floor, onto my desk, so you all can work on behalf of the American people, so you can use your God-given talents, your fantastic brains, your clear vision to better protect America. This is the right course of action; this is what we owe the American people; and this is what we will deliver."

NIH Joins Forces with African-American Groups to Reduce the Risk of SIDS

In a first-of-its-kind collaboration, the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) at NIH has joined forces with three national African American women's organizations in a year-long program to reduce the risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) among African American infants.

Representatives from the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, the Women in the NAACP, and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., will work with the NICHD to conduct SIDS risk reduction training and outreach activities in communities around the country. Each organization is holding regional summit meetings to launch its activity. At the summits, members of the organizations and community leaders are equipped with educational techniques, strategies and promotional materials to conduct outreach activities on reducing infants' risk for SIDS.

"The research points in one direction: unless there is a medical reason not to, infants should be placed to sleep on their backs to help reduce the risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome," said Yvonne T. Maddox, Ph.D., deputy director of the NICHD, who forged the collaboration with the three organizations. "We need to work harder to ensure that culturally appropriate messages reach families with infants."

An extensive body of research has shown that placing infants to sleep on their backs reduces their risk of SIDS. Based on this evidence from the United

States and abroad, the NICHD formed a coalition of national organizations to launch a public awareness campaign called *Back to Sleep* in 1994. At that time, the SIDS rates for African Americans were double those for Caucasians. Since the start of the campaign in 1994, the SIDS rates for both groups have declined by about 50 percent, but the disparity still remains.

To help eliminate this disparity, the NICHD joined with the non-profit National Black Child Development Institute in 1999 to reduce SIDS among African American infants. That initial collaboration has spawned several activities including these summits. More information about this outreach program is available on the NICHD Web site at <http://www.nichd.nih.gov/sids>.

NIH Lauded for Pollution Prevention, Energy Conservation Efforts



Richard Pecora, Maryland secretary of the environment (l), stands with Steve Ficca (c), NIH associate director for research services, and Capt. Ed Rau (r) of NIH's Environmental Protection Branch to receive the award from the Businesses for the Bay.

NIH was recognized recently for its pollution prevention and energy conservation efforts. In two separate award ceremonies, NIH received the Businesses for the Bay 2002 Significant Achievement Award for a Government Facility and the first Presidential Award for Leadership in Federal Energy Management from the Department of Energy (DOE).

Businesses for the Bay, a voluntary pollution prevention program for business, industry and government to help protect the Chesapeake Bay watershed, bestowed its award to NIH for the following accomplishments at its annual meeting this past winter:

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- Reducing the generation of mixed waste by more than 99 percent;
- Exceeding goals for total reductions of chemicals reported under the Environmental Protection Agency's Toxic Chemical Inventory reporting system;
- Implementing the "Mad as a Hatter? Campaign for a Mercury-Free NIH" and its extensive outreach efforts to schools and communities;
- Making power plant improvements, including construction of a new cogeneration facility that will reduce air emissions; and
- Installing a state-of-the-art water reclamation system at NIH's Poolesville facility preventing discharges of 100,000 gallons per day of waste water from the facility's treatment plant to surface waters.

NIH and HHS also won an energy conservation award from DOE's Federal Energy Management Program, which works to reduce the cost and environmental impact of the federal government by advancing energy efficiency and water conservation, promoting the use of distributed and renewable energy and improving utility management decisions at federal sites. The award was made possible through the Partnership for Energy Performance program at Fort Detrick—a public-private partnership that is achieving significant reductions in energy and energy-related costs through a team of employees from the National Cancer Institute in Frederick, the U.S. Army Garrison, Alleghany Power and SAIC Frederick. To date, this program has achieved annual energy and maintenance cost savings over \$2.9 million.

Congratulations, NIH!

Portrait of Former NIH Director Dr. Harold Varmus Unveiled

Earlier this year former NIH Director Harold Varmus, M.D., returned to NIH to take part in a tradition followed by all previous NIH directors—the formal unveiling of his official NIH portrait. At a ceremony in Building 1 on the NIH campus, Dr. Varmus described the portrait to a gathering of NIH colleagues and officials. The portrait, which was painted by Jon R. Friedman, features



Harold Varmus, M.D., stands next to his new portrait with NIH Director Dr. Zerhouni.

Dr. Varmus seated casually in front of a famous 18th-century painting of French scientist Antoine Laurent Lavoisier and his wife by Jacques Louis David. Dr. Varmus explained the importance of this background painting of Lavoisier—the man he called “the founder of modern chemistry and reductionist science.”

Dr. Varmus said the painting celebrates science in four ways. It emphasizes the connection between science and art; it highlights the relationship between science and words (Lavoisier can be seen working on his *Traité Élémentaire de Chimie* or *Elementary Treatise on Chemistry presented in a New Order according to Modern Discoveries*, published on Jan. 17, 1789); it depicts the benefits of science and marriage; and it shows the relationship of science to politics (Lavoisier was a member of the French ruling class).

The ceremony wasn't all about the painting, as former colleagues used the opportunity to praise, celebrate and roast Dr. Varmus and his achievements throughout his tenure. NIH Director Elias Zerhouni, M.D., said that one could measure Dr. Varmus' success by the number of new buildings he launched or his effort to double the budget every 5 years. But he also joked that if each director's portrait changed in size, relative to his or her accomplishments, Dr. Varmus' would cover the entire first-floor wall in Building 1.

Hanging just outside of the NIH director's office in Building 1, the portrait takes its place in NIH director history.

NEI Funds Community-Based Eye Health Programs

Last month, the National Eye Institute (NEI) selected more than 30 recipients nationwide to receive the first Healthy Vision 2010 Community Awards. Three of the awards, which provide funding for community-based eye health education and promotion programs, went to local Maryland organizations.

Local recipients include:

- *The Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services* in Rockville to identify children with possible vision problems enrolled in non-public schools and link those needing treatment to providers;
- *Times Community Services* in Baltimore to develop “Focus on Eyes,” an innovative telemedicine project targeted to African Americans; and
- *Wald Community Nursing Center* of the Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing in Baltimore to increase vision health education, screening and followup care in high-risk groups.

By providing funding to these community-based organizations, NEI supports local efforts in raising awareness about eye health issues, including diabetic eye disease, glaucoma and early detection of eye disease in children. Through a variety of activities, awardees aim to combat vision loss in their communities by spotlighting the importance of blindness prevention and vision rehabilitation. All of these activities mirror vision objectives outlined in *Healthy People 2010*, the nation’s health promotion and disease prevention framework.

The Healthy Vision 2010 Community Awards program helps community organizations nationwide develop and implement sound educational programs, according to NEI Director Paul A. Sieving, M.D., Ph.D. “These educational programs extend the availability of vision services to those who need them most. We believe that by working together at the national and local levels, we can encourage individuals and communities to focus on preventive and rehabilitative care and make eye health a priority.” For more information on Healthy Vision 2010, visit <http://www.healthyvision2010.org>.

NIH CALENDAR OF EVENTS*

April 8
The Mood and Anxiety Disorders Program Distinguished Lecturer Series: *Genetic Studies of Mood Disorders* by J. Raymond DePaulo, M.D., Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, 12:30–2 p.m., Wilson Hall, Building 1, NIH campus, free and open to the public. Call Holly Giesen at 301-435-8982 for more information.

WFLC Faces and Family Life Seminar Series: *How to Stay Close During the Turbulent Teen Years*, 12–2 p.m., Room 6C10, Building 31C, NIH campus, free and open to the public. Pre-registration is required. Call 301-435-1619, or visit <http://wflc.od.nih.gov/faces.asp> for more information.

April 9
The NIH Director’s Wednesday Afternoon Lectures: *Polyvalency: From Influenza to Anthrax* by George Whitesides, Ph.D., Harvard University, 3 p.m., Masur Auditorium, Building 10, NIH campus, free and open to the public. Call Hilda Madine at 301-594-5595 for more information, or visit <http://www1.od.nih.gov/wals/schedule.htm>.

April 15
The Mood and Anxiety Disorders Program Distinguished Lecturer Series: *Pediatric Anxiety and Movement Disorders* by James Leckman, M.D., Yale University School of Medicine, 12:30–2 p.m., Wilson Hall, Building 1, NIH campus, free and open to the public. Call Holly Giesen at 301-435-8982 for more information.

WFLC Faces and Family Life Seminar Series: *Managing Stress: Training via Chiropractic Interventions*, noon–1:30 p.m., Room 6C6, Building 31C, NIH campus, free and open to the public. Pre-registration is required. Call 301-435-1619, or visit <http://wflc.od.nih.gov/faces.asp> for more information.

April 16
The NIH Director’s Wednesday Afternoon Lectures: *Nutrition, Blood Pressure, Cholesterol—And Low Risk* by Jeremiah Stamler, M.D., Northwestern University, 3 p.m., Masur Auditorium, Building 10, NIH campus, free and open to the public. Call Hilda Madine at 301-594-5595 for more information, or visit <http://www1.od.nih.gov/wals/schedule.htm>.

April 23
The NIH Director’s Wednesday Afternoon Lectures: *Inflammatory Breast Cancer: Genetic Determinants and Challenges for Novel Therapeutics* by Sofia Merajver, M.D., Ph.D., University of Michigan, 3 p.m., Masur Auditorium, Building 10, NIH campus, free and open to the public. Call Hilda Madine at 301-594-5595 for more information, or visit <http://www1.od.nih.gov/wals/schedule.htm>.

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April 24

WFLC Faces and Family Life Seminar Series: *Communicate Assertively*, noon–1:30 p.m., Room 6C10, Building 31C, NIH campus, free and open to the public. Pre-registration is required. Call 301-435-1619, or visit <http://wflc.od.nih.gov/faces.asp> for more information.

April 28

The Manchester String Quartet: *Brahms Quartet in C Minor, opus 51, #1*, 12:30 p.m., Masur Auditorium, Building 10, NIH campus, free and open to the public. For more information, call Sharon Greenwell at 301-496-4713.

April 29

The Mood and Anxiety Disorders Program Distinguished Lecturer Series: *The Future of Psychological Treatments for Emotional Disorders: Talking to the Amygdala* by David Barlow, Ph.D., Boston University, 12:30–2 p.m., Lipsett Amphitheater, Building 10, NIH campus, free and open to the public. Call Holly Giesen at 301-435-8982 for more information.

April 30

WFLC Faces and Family Life Seminar Series: *Coping Skills for Managing Work/Life Stress*, 1–3 p.m., Room 6C10, Building 31C, NIH campus, free and open to the public. Pre-registration is required. Call 301-435-1619, or visit <http://wflc.od.nih.gov/faces.asp> for more information.

**Calendar items subject to change. Call to confirm your event.*

OTHER NEWS AND ACTIVITIES OF INTEREST

Bethesda Holds Fourth Annual Literary Festival

Literary buffs won't want to miss Bethesda's fourth annual Literary Festival beginning Thursday, April 24 through Sunday, April 27. Set amongst the businesses of downtown Bethesda, this free event brings together poets, novelists, journalists, non-fiction writers and authors of children's books to discuss today's literary culture. Featured speakers include National Public Radio personality Diane Rehm, noted journalist Jim Lehrer, children's author Phyllis Reynolds Naylor and many other writers and authors. The festival offers programs, workshops and competitions for all ages. Children



can meet their favorite authors and illustrators, hear storytellers, make their own books and meet some popular children's characters. For more information or a schedule of events, call the Bethesda Urban Partnership at 301-215-6660, or visit <http://www.bethesda.org>.

Rockville Hosts Annual Science Day

Science can be fun, especially when you have live snakes, model rockets and solar cars on hand! On Sunday, April 27 from noon to 5 p.m., the Rockville Consortium for Science (RCS) is hosting its annual Science Day, bringing together local scientists, engineers, historians and technology experts to offer hands-on science activities and exhibits to the community. This year's free event, which takes place in the Theater Arts Building at Montgomery College in Rockville, features a variety of reptiles, solar racing cars, rocket-building and launching workshops, physics and chemistry experiments and more. Astronomers and meteorologists will help you understand the world around us. Learn how robots operate and see them in action, and watch ham radio operators share their hobby. RCS presents this event annually to increase interest in science and technology in the community, especially among young people. Parking and admission is free, and door prizes are featured. For more information, call Sheila Marshall at 301-279-0625, or visit <http://www.rocknet.org/community/science>.

Spring Kite Festival, Egg Hunt Planned

Join the City of Rockville as it welcomes spring with its Fifth Annual Kite Fest and Spring Eggstravaganza on Saturday, April 19. The festival, which is free and open to the public, features kite stunts, kite-making, kite sales, giveaways and more. Children can enjoy face painting, jumping on a moon bounce, seeing a puppet show and making spring crafts. Peter Cottontail will be on hand as he oversees egg hunts for Rockville children under the age of 9. The festivities take place from 10 a.m. to noon at Civic Center Park, located at 603 Edmonston Drive. For more information, call 240-314-8600 or 240-314-5022 in case of inclement weather.

Strathmore Holds Spring Break Theater for Kids

Are you a parent struggling with what to do with the kids during spring break? If so, then you may want to consider seeing one of the programs offered by Strathmore Hall Arts Center's Spring Break Theater. From April 14–17, Strathmore is bringing a diverse group of performers to its grounds, including puppeteers, dance ensembles, jugglers and musicians, to delight its younger audiences. All shows are from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Strathmore Hall Arts Center, 10701 Rockville Pike, in North Bethesda. Tickets are \$6, and children under 3 are free. A tentative schedule is listed below:

April 14 A Show of Virtues

by the Grey Seal Puppets

A puppet program teaching important lessons about courage, perseverance and politeness.

April 15 Jump, Kick, Dance

by Nego Gato Ensemble

A high energy martial arts/dance form that merges music, movement and acrobatics.

April 16 Comedy, Juggling and Other Disasters

by Rich Potter

A one-man vaudeville-style show that mixes juggling, wit and physical comedy.

April 17 Latino Rhythms and Song

by Lilo Gonzalez and Friends

A band that invites its audience to experience the sound and song of El Salvador.

For more information or tickets, call 301-530-0540, or visit <http://www.strathmore.org>.

Montgomery County, Suburban Hospital Hold Free Senior Health Fair

The Montgomery County Department of Recreation and Suburban Hospital are joining forces this month to present a comprehensive

health fair for seniors at the Holiday Park Senior Center in Wheaton. On Thursday, April 24, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., participants can take part in free health screenings, exhibits and seminars focusing on topics such as diabetes, stroke, memory, health insurance, first aid and more. Free boxed lunches, giveaway bags and door prizes are also featured for those who register in advance. The Holiday Park Senior Center is located at 3950 Ferrara Drive. For more information or to register, call Suburban On-Call at 301-896-3939.

Audubon Nature Fair Set for May

The Audubon Naturalist Society is hosting its annual Audubon Nature Fair on Sunday, May 5 from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the grounds of Woodend Sanctuary in Chevy Chase. Offering something for everyone, visitors to the fair can peruse a wide selection of nature arts and crafts, meet live animals at Scales 'n Tales and enjoy plenty of food. Children can go on a nature safari, participate in the interactive musical science adventures of Flumpa® the frog and make their own nature crafts to bring home. Admission to the fair is \$6 for adults, \$2 for children ages 2–12 and free for children under 2 years. For more information, call 301-652-9188 or visit <http://www.audubonnaturalist.org>.

TRY THIS WEB SITE

<http://www.science.gov>

Science.gov offers the American public online access to U.S. government science and technology information—all in one place. Billed as the “FirstGov for science,” the new site is the result of more than 20 science- and technology-based governmental organizations working together to provide a gateway to reliable information about science and technology. Visitors to the site can find information on agriculture, health and medicine, astronomy and space, science education, applied science and technology, environment, energy and many more. In depth queries put you in touch with more specific federal Web sites or databases. The site also has a search feature and an index allowing the user to find more specific results.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Rheumatoid Arthritis?

If you or someone you know has Rheumatoid Arthritis, then consider participating in a medical research study at the NIH. To learn more, call 1-800-411-1222 or TTY: 1-866-411-1010.

Parkinson's Disease Study

People with Parkinson's disease and memory problems may be able to participate in a study at the NIH. The study is evaluating the drug donepezil. For more information, call 1-800-411-1222 or TTY: 1-866-411-1010.

Muscular Leg Pain Suffers Needed

Do you have muscular leg pain? If it is caused by blocked arteries and occurs with activity but improves with rest, then you may be able to take part in a NIH research study. For more information, call 1-800-411-1222 or TTY: 1-866-411-1010.

Children Needed for Arthritis Study

If you have a child with Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis (JRA), consider participating in a NIH study testing a new drug treatment for JRA. For more information, call 1-800-411-1222 or TTY: 1-866-411-1010.

Type O Blood Donors Wanted

The NIH Blood Bank is in urgent need of Type O blood. To donate, please call 301-496-1048 to make an appointment at the Blood Bank (Department of Transfusion Medicine), located on the first floor of the Clinical Center, Building 10, on the NIH campus in Bethesda. Walk-in donors are also welcome. The NIH Blood Bank is open Tuesday through Friday, from 7:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. Convenient, free parking is available directly adjacent to the Blood Bank entrance. If you have not donated blood before and are not sure if you are eligible, visit <http://www.cc.nih.gov/dtm/html/donrinfo.htm> to learn more about being a donor at NIH.

The OCL Update is available on our Web site at <http://ocl.od.nih.gov>. If you would rather view this document online and not receive a printed version, please contact the OCL office at 301-496-3931. If you would like to list an upcoming event of interest to the local community, call Terry LaMotte at Palladian Partners, OCL support contractor, at 301-650-8660, or send her an e-mail at tlamotte@palladianpartners.com.

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